Stokesley Rural District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1919.

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STOKESLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's Annual Report for the year 1919.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure of again presenting for your approval my annual report on the mortality and sanitary condition of your District for the year 1919.

During the past year, there have been 205 births registered in the District, but with the corrections from the Registrar-General's Office, the correct number is 209. The number in 1918 was 222, a decrease of 13: for several years the number of births has been gradually falling. The estimated population to the middle of 1919 for the birth-rate is 11,837, and gives a birth-rate of 16.8 per 1,000. The birth-rate for the whole of England and Wales is 18.5 per 1,000.

There were 102 males and 107 females born during the year: 12 of them were illegitimate. Last year there were 14 illegitimates born.

The number of deaths registered in the District was 152. The correct number, however, is 166, as the Registrar-General has notified me of seventeen deaths of residents occurring outside the District, and there were three belonging to other Districts. Last year, the number of deaths was abnormally large, viz.: 232, so there is a decrease of 66.

The population estimated for the middle of 1919 for the death-rate is 11.363, giving a death-rate af 14.61 per 1,000. The death-rate for England and Wales was 13.8 per 1,000. 76 males and 90

females died during the year. According to ages, the deaths in the different districts have been thus distributed:

Parishes.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards
Stokesley ...	15	1	...	...	1	1	...	3	9
Great Ayton	37	5	2	3	...	2	6	7	12
Yarm ...	26	4	2	...	1	1	1	5	12
Broughton District ...	26	1	...	...	...	2	5	8	10
Hutton District ...	16	4	...	...	...	1	...	7	4
Whorlton District ...	15	1	...	...	2	...	3	2	7
Remainder of District	31	7	...	...	1	3	4	9	7
Total ...	166	23	4	3	5	10	19	41	61

I am not working out the percentages for each district as I am doubtful what alterations have taken place in the populations.

The number in Stokesley is the lowest number that I can find any record of: in 1912 it was the same number. The average number for the last ten years is 25.6 per annum, which with the population of the last census, in 1911, gives a death-rate of 15.72 per 1,000. The number at Ayton, 37, is large, though twelve less than in 1918. The average for the last ten years is 34.2 per annum, giving a death-rate according to the population of the last census of 14.75 per 1,000. The population of this district has increased since the last census, and on account of over-crowding due to the want of houses, the people are not living under the healthy conditions that are desirable. The average number at Yarm is 28 per annum, giving a death-rate according to the last census of 16.3 per 1,000. There is at Yarm a large number of unhealthy yards and houses. In the Broughton district, the average number is 17.3 per annum, giving a death-rate of 14.06 per 1,000 for the population at the last census. In the Hutton district, the average number is 16.6 per annum, giving a death-rate of 13.86 per 1,000 for the population at the last census. In the Whorlton district, the average number is 13.7 per annum, giving a death-rate of 16.97 per 1,000 for the population at the last census. In the remainder of the District, the average number is 41.8 per annum, giving a death-rate of 12.59 per 1,000 for the population at the last census.

Two deaths occurred from Zymotic diseases, viz.: one from measles, and one from whooping-cough, giving a death-rate from these causes of 0.17 per 1,000. Last year there were twelve deaths from Zymotic diseases.

There were 15 deaths from Tuberculous disease, against 16 in 1918, viz.: 7 from disease of the lungs, 3 from disease of the membranes of the brain, and 5 from other tuberculous disease. The death-rate from this cause was 1.32 per 1,000.

There was one death from Puerperal Fever: the first there has been since 1912; and there were two deaths from the other diseases of parturition.

There were twelve deaths from Influenza, against 16 in 1918; 9 from Pneumonia, against 24; 21 from Heart Disease, against 22; 9 from Bronchitis, against 5; 21 from Cancer, against 16; and 5 deaths occurred from violence apart from suicide, against 7.

There were 23 deaths under a year old, giving a death-rate of 110 per 1,000 births. Last year the rate was 108.11 per 1,000 births. The rate for England and Wales is 89. The causes of death are: 2 from Tuberculous Meningitis, 2 from Bronchitis, 2 from Enteritis, 13 from Congenital Debility, and 4 from other defined diseases. Two of them were illegitimate, the same as last year.

ZYMOTIC AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

There were 257 cases notified during the year, against 91 in 1918: an increase of 166, due chiefly to an outbreak of Measles at Great Ayton; and also, for the first time, all forms of Pneumonia had to be notified. The cases were:

5 of Diphtheria, against two last year, 2 of them at Ayton, 2 at Yarm, and 1 in the Broughton district;

7 of Scarlet Fever, the same as last year: 1 at Ayton, 1 in the Broughton district, 1 in the Whorlton district, and 4 in the remainder of the district;

2 of Puerperal Fever in the remainder of the district. It is three or four years since a case was notified;

4 of Erysipelas. None reported last year;

191 cases of Measles, against 72 the previous year. There were 24 at Stokesley, 101 at Great Ayton, 18 at Yarm, 12 in the Broughton district, and 36 in the remainder of the District. The outbreak at Ayton was due to a visitor.

In the future, this disease has not to be notified, except by the School-teachers. I don't think general notification does any good: at the same time, the notification of the first case in any district or parish would be very useful.

31 cases of Pneumonia were notified, viz.: 4 at Stokesley, 4 at Ayton, 4 at Yarm, 7 in the Broughton district, 1 in the Hutton district, 1 in the Whorlton district, and 10 in the remainder of the District.

17 cases of Tuberculous disease were notified, viz.: 7 of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 10 of other forms of Tuberculosis, against 8 last year. 2 were at Stokesley, 6 at Great Ayton, 3 at Yarm, 1 in the Broughton district, 1 in the Hutton district, 1 in the Whorlton district, and 3 in the remainder of the District.

There are only three shelters in the District, all of which are in use. They are decidedly of great benefit, and more are urgently needed.

Two cases, one of Scarlet Fever and one of Diphtheria, were removed to the Sanatorium at Middlesbrough.

Your Inspector has attended to the dis-infecting of the premises by fumigation, and the results, so far, have been satisfactory, but there is a great danger of the mattress and bed-clothes not being quite safe.

WATER SUPPLY.

There has been no alteration in the supply of the District for the last three or four years. The chief source is from shallow wells, which are always liable to pollution. There is a piped supply at Yarm from the Tees Valley Water Board. Seamer and Crathorne have each a separate piped water supply, by means of a wind-mill pumping up the water from a deep well. East Rounton and Ingleby Arncliffe are supplied by pipes from a spring in Arncliffe Woods. Ingleby Greenhow is supplied from a reservoir on Lord De L'Isle's estate at Battersby. Part of Great Ayton has also a piped supply from a stream up Gribdale. Bilsdale is supplied chiefly by open streams that are unprotected from pollution: the Landlord is only very slowly covering them in. The remainder of the District is supplied by wells, which is often very inconvenient, the poor people having to carry their water a good distance, as I have pointed out in former reports. Newby, even with this inconvenience, is often short of water, and the farmers and some of the cottagers have a considerable distance to go in order to get water.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

There are sewage works at Great Ayton and Kirklevington, and they have been kept in good working order during the year, and have been visited by your Inspector and myself from time to time.

Part of Nunthorpe is drained into the Middlesbrough Rural Area, and passes through their purifying tank, towards the cleaning out of which you have to contribute. It is a satisfactory arrangement.

The sewers in the District have caused very little trouble, and the same might be said of the private drains.

The drains at Ayton at present are able to cope with the amount of sewage they have to carry, but, when the fresh houses are built, it will be a question if the main sewer is large enough to carry the increased amount.

SCAVENGING.

The scavenging work at Great Ayton and Stokesley has been done fairly well, though the Stokesley contractor requires to pay more attention to the cleaning out of the beck. At Yarm, the work has been done in a most unsatisfactory manner, and, as the contractor has given notice to terminate his agreement with you, I trust that we shall be fortunate in securing a good man, as, on account of the unsatisfactory yards, it is essential that the work should be properly done.

In other parts of the District, the occupiers make their own arrangements with the farmers, and use the material for their own gardens. This arrangement is not altogether satisfactory at Hutton and Whorlton.

RIVERS POLLUTION.

The sewage is properly treated at Great Ayton, Kirklevington, and part of Nunthorpe. At Ingleby Arncliffe, Picton, Seamer, and a few private houses, there are septic tanks: in the remainder of the District, the sewerage is discharged direct into the streams; but as the villages lie a good distance apart, and there is a fair amount of water, no harmful effects are apparent. At Yarm, the sewage is delivered direct into the River Tees, which is tidal.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

Your Inspector and myself, at the request of the Housing Committee, made an inspection of most of the poor cottages at Ayton, Stokesley and Yarm. A large number of these is unfit for human habitation, several of them consist of only two rooms, one on the ground floor and one above; some have no pantry, others have an apology for one in the shape of a cupboard. They are low, have not sufficient ventilation, and, either on account of the windows or other buildings near them, there is not plenty of light: in fact, in some cases, it is a question if the sun ever reaches them. The sanitary arrangements are often most unsatisfactory, especially at Yarm, where they are situated in narrow yards, often badly paved.

These houses require closing and demolishing as soon as other houses are available. The tenants, however, will be quite unable to pay the rents for the houses you are proposing to build, and, if neighbours in the better cottages do not move into them and leave theirs empty, it will be a serious question what will have to be done with the population of these unhealthy cottages. If we are going to get the better of the scourge of tubercular disease, we must have houses, in the first place, with more light and air than the present ones have; and, after that, what is equally important, we must attend to dampness, sanitary arrangements, a good and a sufficiently convenient supply of water; and, lastly, to see that it is possible to keep the houses clean and free from dust.

In your District, except at Ayton, there has not been a serious shortage of houses, though practically everyone is occupied. There are several houses and cottages in possession of people who only spend a few weeks of the year in them.

Your Housing Committee has practically purchased twelve acres of land at Ayton for £2,400, and it is hoped to start building 30 houses. At Yarm also, they have got twelve acres at £2,200, and they are starting with 30 houses; and at Stokesley they are getting a site of four acres at £944, and hope soon to start with 12 houses.

The lodging-houses in the District, owing to the war, have come to a natural end: in my opinion, there is no need for them in this District, and I don't think they are desirable.

BUTCHERS' SHOPS AND SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

These have been visited from time to time, and found in a fairly satisfactory condition. There was not much fresh meat in the district, owing to the meat control, and that was not of first-class quality. The frozen meat was not at all appreciated in the District, and two supplies had to be condemned as unfit for human food.

The quality of the bacon supplied by the shops was very poor, and although not unsound, it had an unpleasant taste when cooked.

REGISTERED COW-BYRES.

Your Inspector reports that there are now 29 Registered New Milk-sellers in your District. The cattle are healthy, and the byres are kept clean and in a satisfactory condition.

The milk has been of good quality, and there have been no complaints.

WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Workshops and Workplaces are not numerous in your District, and your Inspector reports they have been kept in a satisfactory condition.

PETROL STORES.

The number of Petrol Licenses is 8; Petrol and Carbide Licenses, 4; Game Licenses, 1.

BYE-LAWS.

The following plans have been submitted and approved by the Council:

GREAT AYTON:—

Proposed alterations and additions to Great Ayton Institute.

Proposed new dwelling-house for Mr. B. Pearson.

Proposed new warehouse for Mr. S. R. W. Moody.

Proposed extension of latrines at the Friends' School.

Proposed alterations and additions to an existing cottage in California, for Mr. S. R. W. Moody.

YARM:—

Proposed conversion of Old Friends' Meeting-house into a dwelling-house for Mr. W. Debbs.

GREAT BROUGHTON:—

Proposed new dwelling-house in Kirby Lane, for J. F. Burnicle, Esq.

HUTTON RUDBY:—

Proposed alterations and additions to Beech House, for Mr. W. Wandless.

NUNTHORPE:—

Proposed new heating-chamber for Geo. Burton, Esq.

BILSDALE:—

Proposed addition to Stud Stile for the Trustees of Duncombe Park Settled Estates.

Your Bye-laws are very ancient, are more suitable for an urban district than a rural one, and only apply to part of the District. I think it is time they were revised, and applied to the whole of the District.

POPULATION AND INHABITED HOUSES.

The population of your District at the census in 1911 was :—

Stokesley	1,624
Great Ayton	2,319
Yarm	1,618
Broughton District	1,231
Hutton District	1,197
Whorlton District	807
Remainder of the District ...	3,318
Total	12,114

There were 2,798 Inhabited Houses, which allows 4.4 of the inhabitants to each house.

The Population for the year 1919, as estimated by the Registrar-General, is : for Birth-rate, 11,837 ; for Death-rate, 11,363. In my opinion, this is somewhat low.

The chief occupation of the District is Agriculture, except at Great Ayton where there are Ironstone and Whinstone Quarries.

The area of the District in acres, is 83,010.

DISTRICT NURSES.

There are now several District Nurses who live either in or on the outskirts of the District. The majority of them are qualified mid-wives.

The following parishes are supplied with them :

Stokesley, including Seamer, Newby and Busby ;
Great Ayton ;
Yarm ;
Broughton, including Kirby and Ingleby Greenhow ;
Hutton, (and I believe it includes Crathorne) ;
Whorlton, including Faceby and Potto.
Ingleby Cross and Rounton are served by Nurses outside the District.

Arrangements have been made, through the County Council, with the various Nursing Committees, except at Stokesley and Broughton, for the Nurse to take charge of the Infant Welfare and School-children. In these two parishes, the area is wide, and an extra Nurse might be required. At the same time, it is most desirable to have a trained person to give advice to the mothers.

These Nurses are a valuable asset to the District, and it is a pity each village is not in connection with one, especially at a time when it is so difficult to find Nurses or home-help for sick households.

The following villages or parishes with a population of over 200, have no Nursing Committee: Bilsdale, 562; Kildale, 220; Carlton, 282; and Nunthorpe, 289. A Nurse in Bilsdale is especially desirable, for the people are at least eight miles from a Doctor, and the road sometimes is impassable, especially, at the present time, the Raisdale part of it. If each household in the parish would subscribe ten shillings or a little over, I am sure it could be managed along with a subscription from the County Council, and from this Council.

Before closing, I must express my appreciation of the efficient and ready help which Mr. F. Bainbridge has given me in the discharge of my duties.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WM. M. YEOMAN, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

STOKESLEY,
26th MARCH, 1920.

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